

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 03869 290515Z

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 H-03 AID-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1716

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (FRASER, DONALD M.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CODEL FRASER

REF: STATE 071659

1. REFTEL IS INCORRECT IN STATING THAT GOP HAS AGREED PERMIT FRASER MEET WITH AQUINO. THUS FAR, EMBASSY HAS ASKED ONLY FOR ACCESS TO LOPEZ AND OSMENA AND HAS RECEIVED POSITIVE GOP RESPONSE. WHEN THIS INFORMATION WAS CONVEYED TO CODEL, ADDITIONAL REQUEST WAS LEVIED FOR VISIT WITH ACQUINO. DUE TO EASTER HOLIDAYS, EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT YET RAISED AQUINO QUESTION WITH GOP AUTHORITIES.

2. WE PLAN TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS MARCH 31 ABOUT VISIT WITH AQUINO. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT WISDOM OF CODEL VISIT WITH AQUINO AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT. AQUINO LAWYERS HAVE FILED TWO PETITIONS WITH SUPREME COURT CONTESTING GOP INTENTION "PERPETUATE" EVIDENCE AGAINST AQUINO BY HAVING ADVERSE WITNESSES TESTIFY BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL. THIS CASE HAS BEEN ON FRONT PAGES OF MANILA PAPERS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HOLY WEEK RECESS AND WILL DOUBTLESS RESUME CONSPICUOUS PUBLICITY BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. SINCE THIS IS VERY TRICKY LEGAL GROUND, AND SINCE THE CASE IS IN VERY ACTIVE JUDICIAL PHASE, WE WILL NEED CODEL'S JUDGMENT WHETHER FRASER WANTS TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF
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INVOLVING HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN THIS MATTER WITH RISK

BEING EXPLOITED BY LAWYERS FOR EITHER SIDE.

3. WE EXPECT COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH CODEL IN SEOUL
ONCE INITIAL SOUNDINGS ARE TAKEN MARCH 31.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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